

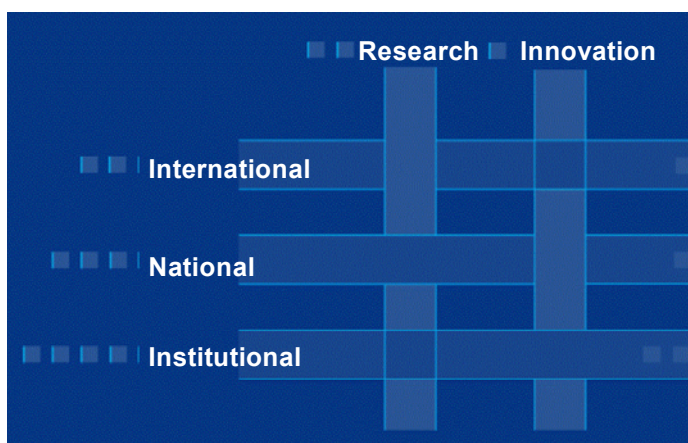


Southern African Research & Innovation Management Association

Weaving research into the fabric of society

www.sarima.co.za

Ensuring research contributes to the sustainable social and economic development of the region by strengthening the research & innovation¹ system



SARIMA operates at an institutional, national and international level, as well as across the research value chain, from research management through innovation to commercialization of research.

Objectives

- Advancement of research and innovation¹ for sustainable economic and social development
- Professional development and capacity building of those involved in managing research and innovation systems.
- Promotion of best practice in the management and administration of research and innovation to create value for education, public benefit and economic development.
- Advocacy of appropriate national and institutional policy in support of research and innovation and participation in the development and implementation of policy.

Activities

SARIMA does not undertake all the activities in support of the research and innovation value chain on its own and interacts and liaises with other organisations as required. The activities undertaken or promoted by SARIMA include:

- education and training - both of members of SARIMA and of researchers - in all aspects of research and innovation management, including the promotion of exchanges and secondments, locally and internationally
- communicating the importance of research and innovation management to all stakeholders – through lobbying, promotional activities and policy development

¹Research & Innovation is used as a short hand to describe the full spectrum of activities in research administration, sponsored research, technology transfer, intellectual property protection and commercialisation and the creation of intellectual capital for economic and social benefit

- data collection, analysis and dissemination, including benchmarks, research performance indicators, funding sources and information resources
- promoting development of and compliance with ethical principles for research
- developing contract research models including appropriate costing and pricing
- promoting the commercialisation of research outputs, including the exchange of Intellectual Property and licensing opportunities.
- conducting or commissioning research into the research and innovation system and how best to manage the process for economic and social benefit
- addressing the asymmetries in access to, and diffusion of, knowledge between 'North and 'South'

...and such other activities as the members request and which are within the objectives and capabilities of the Association.

Membership

The Association is open to everyone in both public and private organisations working in research and related technology transfer and innovation support activities, who subscribes to the objectives of the Association.

SARIMA's members include people at all levels of management of research and technology development in institutes, higher education and industry.

Patrons

The following are the Founding Patrons of SARIMA:

- Professor Njabulo Ndebele, Vice Chancellor of UCT and Chairman of SAUVCA
- Dr Khotso Mokhele, President of NRF and Chairman of COHORT
- Dr Sibusiso Sibisi, President of CSIR

Services and International Links

SARIMA seeks to maintain a comprehensive database of expertise relating to the management of the research process, to commission and promote research into best practice, to develop pilot projects on best practice and to deliver relevant information to those involved in research and innovation management and administration through:

- Conferences, workshops and professional training courses
- Networking of members, both locally and internationally
- Linking with international institutions
- Publications, audio-visual and e-learning materials
- Staff exchanges
- Working groups and focus areas

Many of the activities and services offered by SARIMA are supported by international organisations that have an interest in both Southern Africa and in the issues of research and innovation as a vehicle for economic growth in developing countries. SARIMA is acting as the key 'clearing house' and point of contact with these institutions.

<http://www.sarima.co.za/>

A brief history of SARIMA

The Association is an outgrowth of the Research Directors Forum (RDF) which met annually for a number of years to review various issues related to research management and administration. At the meeting of the RDF in October 2001, it was agreed to form a new Association with a wider scope. A workshop organized by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) in Durban in April 2001 on best practice in research management also influenced the activities and scope of the new association and the ongoing participation of ACU in the work of SARIMA is acknowledged with thanks.

At a workshop in Cape Town in November 2001, the concept of an association that spanned the full range of research, innovation and commercialisation activities was explored, with the assistance of the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM). The interest from AUTM and their continued advice and support is also acknowledged.

The Inaugural meeting of the new association was held in Cape Town on 14 February 2002. Over 100 interested persons drawn from a wide cross-section of Universities, Technikons, Science Councils, Government and the private sector attended this meeting and mandated the establishment of the Association. The International Intellectual Property Institute (IIPI) of Washington DC participated in this founding event, with support from USAID. Both organisations have continued to play a part in the evolution of SARIMA and the seed funding from USAID has been of particular value in establishing SARIMA as a viable Association.

Interest Groups

To accommodate the diversity of interests in SARIMA, a number of interest groups have been formed. The interest groups established to date include:

Research Quality and Productivity: Incorporating the activities of the RDF, this interest group continues to develop an understanding of the research system, its drivers and what needs to be done to strengthen research in the country.

Training, internships, capacity building: SARIMA is planning a major capacity building, training and development programme across the research & innovation value chain. This includes researchers, research office staff as well as intellectual property protection, technology transfer and commercialisation. Links with local and international organisations and funding agencies are being forged.

Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Interest Group will cover a wide range of intellectual property issues ranging from policy advocacy, participation in the national IP discussions, training, surveys, benchmarking and capacity building.

Incubators, venture capital, funding of commercialisation Interest Group will seek to identify best practice, facilitate funding, promote networking and training. Linkages with national programmes such as GODISA, the Innovation Fund, the new national venture capital fund and private venture capital firms will be promoted.

Research Information Systems Interest Group will be closely involved in the SARIMA Research Information Database project which proposes a standardized way of collecting national research & innovation information with less effort and greater accuracy.

Community of Science (COS) Funding and Expertise Database Interest Group will support training and capacity building, lobby for more local funding opportunities and negotiate COS licence discounts for SARIMA members.

Costing and pricing Interest Group will draw on international and local experience to define best practice and alternative approaches to costing and pricing of research.

Economics of research & innovation systems This smaller more specialised Interest Group will draw on international benchmark data to develop models of the innovation system.

See www.sarima.co.za for more details of these interest groups or to register your interests. New interest groups can be established in response to member needs.

Charter of SARIMA – the Southern African Research & Innovation Management Association

